

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 15 through 19 and 21 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 6, and 7 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method executed in an information processing apparatus which distributes across a network a printer driver program for controlling a printing device to a client apparatus for managing the printing device, said method comprising:

a designation step of designating range information for searching for a printing device connected to the network;

a search step of searching for the printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; ~~and corresponds to the designated range information; and~~

a determination step of determining whether or not the printing device searched in the search step has a network address within the range information designated in the designation step; and

a distribution step of distributing a printer driver program, from the information processing apparatus to the client apparatus, for managing the printing device determined in the determination step as the printing device having the network address within the range information designated in the designation step ~~searched in the search step.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an acquisition step of acquiring address information of the printing device on the basis of data obtained by the result of search of the printing device in the search step,

wherein the distribution step performs the distribution process by using the address information acquired in the acquisition step.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a recognition step of recognizing a preparation completion notification indicating that an accepting module which is activated in the client apparatus as a transfer destination of the printer driver program and receives the printer driver program is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the printer driver program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification in the recognition step.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the acquisition step acquires network address information corresponding to the range information for search, on the basis of data obtained by the result of search of the printing device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the range designated to search for the printing device is designated for each domain, each OU (Organization Unit) in a directory service, or each IP address.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a printer driver program for controlling a printing device to a client apparatus for managing ~~said~~ the printing device, comprising:

designating means for designating range information for searching for a printing device connected to ~~said~~ the network;

searching means for searching for ~~said~~ the printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; ~~and corresponds to the designated range information; and~~

determination means for determining whether or not the printing device searched by said searching means has a network address within the range information designated by said designating means; and

distributing means for distributing a printer driver program, from the information processing apparatus to said client apparatus, for managing ~~said~~ the printing device determined by said determination means as the printing device having the network address within the range searched by said searching means information designated by said designating means.

7. (Currently Amended) A program ~~for allowing~~ which is stored in a computer-readable storage medium and causes an information processing apparatus to execute an information processing method for distributing across a network a printer driver program for controlling a printing device to a client apparatus for managing ~~said~~ the printing device, said method comprising:

a designation ~~module for~~ step of designating range information for searching for a printing device connected to ~~said the~~ network;

a search ~~module for~~ step of searching for ~~said the~~ printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; ~~and corresponds to the designated range information; and~~

a determination step of determining whether or not the printing device searched in the search step has a network address within the range information designated in the designation step; and

a distribution module for distributing a printer driver program, from the information processing apparatus to a client, for managing ~~said the~~ printing device determined in the determination step as the printing device having the network address within the range searched by execution of said search module information designated in the designation step.

8 - 21. (Cancelled)